

# STEM

*starts now*

## Bridges

**Recommended Age:** 25–30 Months

**STEM concepts:** Science (physical science), technology (simple tools), Engineering (Engineering), Math (Number sense and operations, spatial relationships, measurement, mathematical reasoning)

**Materials:** card stock paper (one piece cut into quarter strips), scissors, masking tape, wooden blocks (at least 2 or 3), small toys (pom poms, counting bears, small farm animals, coins), ruler, charting paper, marker

**What to do:** Tell your child that you are going to build a bridge. Place a block at each end of where you would like the bridge to go. Place the third block if available in the center to make a sturdier bridge. Have your toddler help you tape the paper strips or full sheets of paper to the blocks to create the ground of the bridge. Document how long the bridge you built is once you've completed the paper and tape. Have conversation about the different items available to put on the bridge and begin placing them one by one on the bridge. Start with one type of item at a time and count them as your toddler places them on the bridge. Document this on your chart paper. Change the size of your bridge or remove the center block and re add the items. See if this changes your results. Document on your chart paper.

**Language and Communication:** Discuss the different available materials. Which ones feel heavy and which ones feel light. Compare the objects. Discuss the differences in the two bridges. Discuss the differences between what was placed on the bridges and why the results may or may not have been different.

**Expand the Activity:** Use other materials to build bridges to see if they can hold the same things the original bridges held.

